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LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims, amended as indicated below, replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for indexing a length of film for severance comprising:
a linear feeding device operative to hold the film and to feed a predetermined amount of film to a trimming device by moving linearly between an initial position and another position towards the trimming device; and
a film holder between the linear feeding device and the trimming device on the in-feed side of the trimming device that is operable between a first position wherein a gap is provided for the film to pass through during feeding to the trimming device, and a second position wherein the gap is closed so that the film is clamped by the film holder between the feeding device and the trimming device during the time the film is being severed by the trimming device substantially along a line on which the film is being severed
2. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the linear feeding device comprises a vacuum head coupled to a vacuum suction device.
3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the vacuum head is changeable for different types of film.
4. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein a surface of the linear feeding device contacting the film is made from material that has low static generation with the film.
5. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, including a linear encoder coupled to the linear feeding device for determining a position of the linear feeding device.

6. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, including a film reel for supplying the length of film, and sensors positioned adjacent to the film reel operative to activate the film reel to release film at particular positions of the film with respect to the sensors, whereby a loop is maintainable between the film reel and a surface supporting the film for indexing.

7. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 6, including one or more rollers situated between the film reel and the linear feeding device to bring the film substantially level with the said surface supporting the film.

8. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, including a collecting reel to which a backing cover peeled off from the film is coupled, for collecting backing cover peeled off from the film during indexing.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 8, including collecting sensors adjacent to the backing cover that are operative to sense a distance from the backing cover to the collecting sensors and initiate driving of the collecting reel for collection further backing cover from the film at a predetermined distance of the backing cover to the collecting sensors.

10. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, including a pick-up device movable between the trimming device and a placement position, and an optical device positionable under the pick-up device for inspecting a piece of film on the pick-up device.

11. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, including a film sensor situated on the trimming device for detecting a presence of a length of film and for initiating a trimming action to sever the same.

12. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, including an end-of-film sensor on the apparatus for detecting an end of a length of film and initiating an action to stop feeding film to the trimming device.

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13-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein an edge of the film holder is substantially aligned with the trimming device at a position where the trimming device severs the film.